SLS 202ES-19 ORIGINAL

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY SENATOR HEWITT

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Eugene Lussen on the celebration of his 100^{th} birthday.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To commend Eugene Lussen on the celebration of his one hundredth birthday.
3	WHEREAS, eighty years ago, Eugene Lussen was a young apprentice at a bakery
4	in New Orleans, Louisiana, his birthplace and home; and
5	WHEREAS, in 1940, Eugene Lussen joined the Louisiana National Guard, serving
6	the 106th Medical Regiment at Jackson Barracks; and
7	WHEREAS, he was called to active duty at Camp Blanding, Florida, and it was
8	during that time that he met a young lady who caught his eye from Valdosta, Georgia, at a
9	dance where they talked and danced until the wee hours of the morning; and
10	WHEREAS, then and there he proposed, she accepted, and at the time of her passing,
11	they had been married more than sixty years; and
12	WHEREAS, they had a son, Kenny, whom he did not see until after the war ended;
13	and
14	WHEREAS, Kenny remembers seeing his father in uniform for the first time when
15	he was two years old and thought the sight of his father was magnificent; and
16	WHEREAS, shipping out from Fort Dix, New Jersey, in 1943, Mr. Lussen landed
17	in Casablanca, Morocco, and was in the "opening act" of the North African sand dune
18	campaign serving under General George S. Patton and fighting Nazi General Erwin

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1	Rommel; and
2	WHEREAS, as a medic he was transferred to the 757th Tank Battalion and the 473rd
3	Infantry Regiment, and was one of the very few to serve in both units; and
4	WHEREAS, he spent two years storming the beaches of Southern Italy from Salerno
5	to Cassino and participated in the liberation of Rome where his unit fought grueling
6	encounters with well-trained German soldiers all the way back to the Alps; and
7	WHEREAS, Mr. Lussen saw action from a Higgins boat, a tank, and on foot, and
8	remembers mud, mountains, and mules while fighting for fifty-eight days in the same
9	clothing and living in trenches and calling them "home"; and
10	WHEREAS, he witnessed many of his friends pass away and describes constant fear
11	from endless artillery barrages; and
12	WHEREAS, on the march northward, his unit faced danger on a daily basis clearing
13	mines by using their bayonets as probes; and
14	WHEREAS, Mr. Lussen describes his unit watching in awe as approximately three
15	thousand planes from the United States flew overhead signaling the beginning of the end of
16	Nazi control in Italy; and
17	WHEREAS, one day in the city of Genoa, he was handling a phone that did not work
18	well and picked up a button from the ground and banged the phone with it saying, "Hello,
19	hello" when suddenly a voice said "Hello. Who is this?" and Mr. Lussen asked, "Who is
20	this?" and the German commander of a five thousand man unit requested to speak with an
21	American commander in order to surrender; and
22	WHEREAS, Mr. Lussen handed the phone to his commander and the Germans
23	surrendered which led to his claim to fame that he single-handedly helped capture thousands
24	of Germans with a button; and
25	WHEREAS, Mr. Lussen was "loaned" to General Charles DeGalle's French
26	expeditionary force as a result of his outstanding medic skills, combat tenacity, selfless
27	service, and love of country; and
28	WHEREAS, fighting the German invasion and occupation, General DeGalle's unit
29	suffered serious injuries to top leadership and great loss of life, and Mr. Lussen was credited

with heroic actions that saved many lives; and

1	WHEREAS, Mr. Lussen also encountered many brushes with death in hand-to-hand
2	fights to the death for which he earned a Combat Infantry Badge; and
3	WHEREAS, for his participation in the liberation of France, Mr. Lussen earned the
4	most prestigious medal, Croix de Guerre, which was established in 1802 by Napoleon
5	Bonaparte and is the highest military honor in France with rank of Chevalier (Knight) in the
6	French Legion of Honor; and
7	WHEREAS, at the end of the war, and after twenty-seven months of continual battle,
8	he earned a space on the first available plane back to the United States, choosing to return
9	home and carrying his last remaining bullet which he still keeps with him today; and
10	WHEREAS, Eugene Lussen is an exemplary member of an elite legion whose
11	military service is a story of sacrifice, courage, and a tribute to all who served, and his quiet
12	demeanor and modest testament belies his uncommon achievements even among his peers;
13	and
14	WHEREAS, in addition to his many achievements, Mr. Lussen has earned the respect
15	and admiration of the countless citizens whose lives he has touched; and
16	WHEREAS, Eugene Lussen, one of Louisiana's finest sons, merits a special measure
17	of commendation for his achievements as a veteran and in celebration of his one hundredth
18	birthday on October 17, 2020.
19	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20	commend and congratulate Eugene Lussen for his exceptional and exemplary service as a
21	member of the United States military; does hereby express to him enduring appreciation for
22	his distinguished service to the citizens of the state of Louisiana and the United States of
23	America; does hereby commend and congratulate him upon the historic occasion of his one
24	hundredth birthday on October 17, 2020, and record for posterity the extraordinary life he
25	has lived; and does hereby extend to him best wishes for continued happiness in all of his
26	future endeavors.
27	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
28	Eugene Lussen.

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SCR NO. 4

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

DIGEST

SCR 4 Original 2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Hewitt

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